



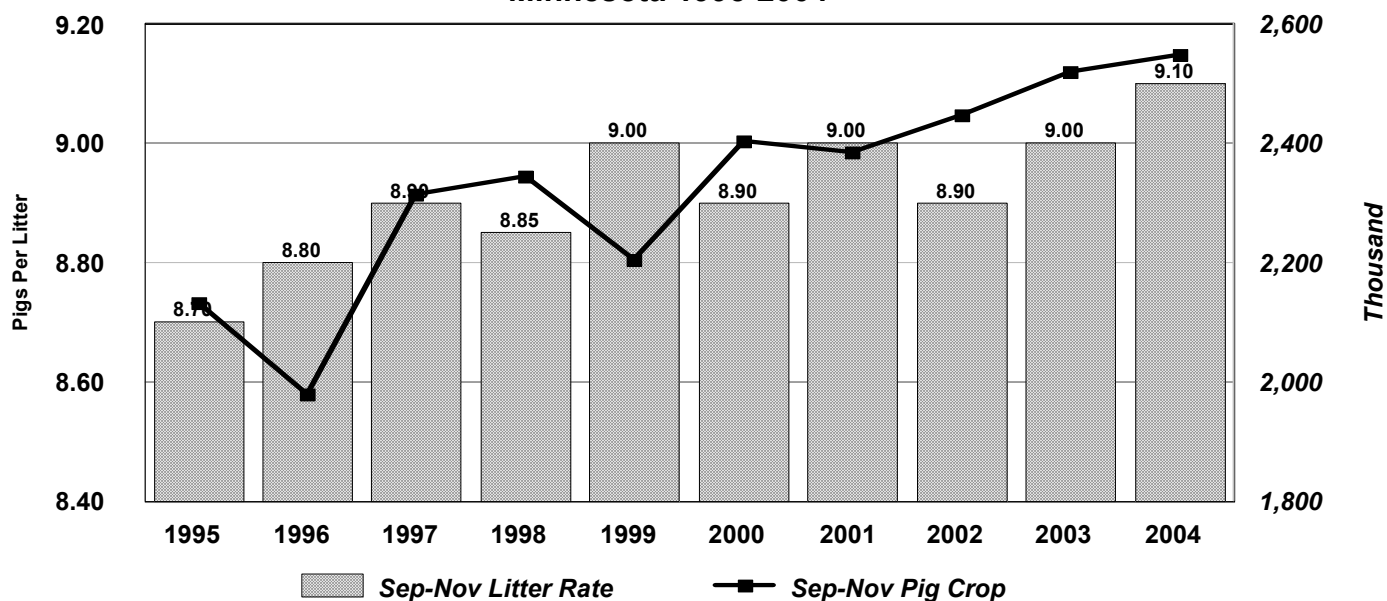
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MINNESOTA HOG NUMBERS DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM SEPTEMBER

Minnesota hog producers had an inventory of 6,500,000 hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004, unchanged from the year earlier however down 2 percent from the September 1, 2004 figure, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Breeding hogs totaled 600,000 and 5,900,000 were market hogs and pigs, both unchanged from a year ago.

Market hogs in the under 60 pound weight group were up 2 percent from last year. Those in the 60-119 pound weight group were unchanged. Hog numbers in the 120-179 pound group were unchanged from last year, while the 180+ pound group were down 4 percent from a year ago.

**September-November Pig Crop and
Pigs Per Litter
Minnesota 1995-2004**

**STATE PIG CROP UP 1 PERCENT**

Minnesota's September-November 2004 pig crop totaled 2,548,000 head, up 1 percent from a year earlier but down 1 percent from the June-August 2004 pig crop. This is a record pig crop for the December quarter. The 280,000 sows that farrowed averaged 9.10 pigs per litter, up from 9.00 a year ago.

DECEMBER 2004-FEBRUARY 2005 AND MARCH-MAY 2005 INTENTIONS

Hog producers in Minnesota intend to farrow 285,000 sows during the December 2004-February 2005 quarter. If realized this would be unchanged from the previous year. Producers intend to farrow 285,000 sows during the March-May 2005 quarter. If realized, this would be down 2 percent from the previous year.

(See back page for U.S. highlights)

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP SLIGHTLY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004 was 60.5 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2003, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2004.

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2003, but up slightly from last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 54.5 million head, was up slightly from last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 25.6 million head, was up slightly from 2003 and up 2 percent from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down slightly from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.96 for the September-November period, compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 2004-February 2005 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in 2004, and 3 percent above 2003. Intended farrowings for March-May 2005, at 2.87 million sows, are down slightly from the same period in 2004, and down 1 percent from the same period in 2003.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2003 through September 2004 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small revisions, not exceeding one-half of one percent were made to the June 2004 total inventory, March-May 2004 pig crop, December-February 2004 pig crop, September-November 2003 pig crop, June-August 2003 pig crop and the September 2003 total inventory. Adjustments of less than one-tenth of one percent were made to the remaining quarters.

**Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop,
United States, December-November 2003-2004^{1/2/}**

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Number	Number	1,000 Head	1,000 Head
Dec ¹	907	935	8.76	8.84	7,941	8,265
Jan	930	954	8.82	8.86	8,202	8,448
Feb	932	947	8.86	8.86	8,257	8,392
Mar	946	958	8.85	8.89	8,373	8,515
Apr	966	957	8.88	8.93	8,581	8,550
May	974	955	8.91	8.97	8,674	8,568
Jun	968	968	8.90	8.99	8,616	8,704
Jul	979	966	8.90	9.00	8,708	8,692
Aug	971	954	8.91	9.03	8,650	8,614
Sep	967	958	8.91	8.97	8,616	8,589
Oct	954	951	8.93	8.96	8,519	8,524
Nov	935	943	8.93	8.96	8,352	8,445
Total	11,429	11,445	8.88	8.94	101,490	102,305

¹ December preceding year.

² Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.